



*From the Office of the President*

**John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.**  
REGIS UNIVERSITY | DENVER, COLORADO

**John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.**  
**President's Year End Reflection**  
**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Dear Regis Community,

As we approach the end of the academic year, I congratulate you for your hard work and encourage you to do your best through final exams. I also encourage you to take care of yourself and others around you during what can be a stressful time - final exams and transitions to new experiences this summer and next year.

Please take a moment to revisit the Regis University values shared with you at the beginning of this school year:

- We believe in the goodness of creation and the sacred dignity of all individuals, each made in the image of God, called to grow with others into the freedom of love. We will not tolerate any speech or action that violates the dignity of any human person, and we will defend those targeted by the forces of bigotry and hate in our society and on our campus. The principle of free speech and the free exchange of ideas, an essential good and critical to the life of the University, must never be used as a front for hateful speech, symbolism, or violence, which have no place at a Jesuit Catholic university.
- We believe that we belong to each other, and that each person shares responsibility for the long, hard work of shaping an inclusive community where all can flourish. As a Jesuit, Catholic University, we embrace the discomfort of examining our own presumptions, failures, and shortcomings, and, in our engagements with one another, we prepare ourselves to be challenged, strengthened, and transformed. As your president, I pledge to engage with you in a process of personal and institutional self-examination and discernment toward the building of a more loving and just community.
- We believe Regis University serves not only itself and its students but is called to be a force for justice and peace in society, above all, in defense of the poor and marginalized. While committed to the highest academic standards of inquiry and reason in the search for truth, our University has never been and must never become an "ivory tower." For us, to seek the "greater glory of God" is to bear responsibility for the most pressing issues of our time. This means exploring not only the dynamics of race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, sexuality, and culture, but also the social and structural implications of privilege, power and social political order in America and the wider world. This also means, as Pope Francis has reminded us, attending to the Earth-our common home.



Being a person for others will always be a challenge, but that is part of your charge at a Jesuit, Catholic university - to challenge yourself academically and spiritually. When you are tempted to see the world as a dangerous place or to see others as too different, resist this. Jesus asks that rather than growing fearful, make an effort to be open; rather than acting in judgment, extend God's love to others.

Let's now complete this semester with the same optimistic spirit and collegiality that we embraced at the beginning of this year's studies. Remember our calling is to serve others, discern the truth, seek justice and live with purpose - together as one family united and called by God to seek the common good.

Gratefully,

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.  
President